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Political subjects discussed:

*None of this is
cut by any stretch of
the imagination*

a) Adenauer's health: CARAVEL heard from the police guard that accompanies Adenauer that he came back from Italy in good health. Their comment was "Der Alte ist wieder frech geworden." CARAVEL heard this in Bonn on 9 April.

b) Adenauer's successor: It is CARAVEL's considered opinion, which he claims to have held since before the election, that Adenauer favors Gerhard SCHROEDER as his successor, mainly because SCHROEDER is "Adenauer's type of man", i.e., a cold fish.

c) Ministry of Interior wage problem: We raised the rejection of a pay raise for government employees as a conversational gambit. However, after stating that he could see no hope for a pay raise for another year or two and that he understood the Finance Minister's reasoning, CARAVEL made the following very emphatic statements: The German police officials and those of the Criminal Police in particular are under paid. Also, partly as the result of the Nazi period, the average German looks at the police with some disdain. The result of these two factors is that the police and the BKA are having a very hard time attracting worthwhile people to the police service. ~~The~~ As a result, the level of the police is deteriorating to the extent that CARAVEL feels that this should be a matter of serious concern to the United States and the Western powers in general. With poor police and security forces, West Germany will become a push-over for Eastern intelligence services and thereby become a weak link and danger point in the whole Western defense system. Considering CARAVEL's high position and the sincerity with which he stated this problem, we feel that it is worth attention.

d) The Ludwigsburg Document (?) Center: At the request of BARBER we brought up the fact that the material which forced the ousting of Oberlaender had come from the Ludwigsburg Center and asked what CARAVEL thought of the possibility that the MfS and indirectly, the Soviets, were feeding material to the Center and even dictating who should be attacked. CARAVEL stated ~~that~~ "Between us only" that the Ludwigsburg Center was known as Bundesstelle fuer Verfolgung von Kriminalbeamten. Apparently the police feel the weight of this institution heavily but are powerless to fight it because the ~~primary~~ purpose of the Center is praiseworthy. CARAVEL criticizes it on the following grounds: a) it was created 8 to 10 years too late, b) whereas you can verify documents in the Berlin Document Center, the information from the Ludwigsburg Center cannot be verified. It is a repository of all kinds of true and notional derogatory information, much of which is undoubtedly fed in by the MfS. c) The scope of the charter of the Center is too narrow. If it had been given the job of working generally against criminals of the Nazi period, it would probably have done a more constructive job. (We did not have time to question CARAVEL about the exact nature of the charter of the Center.)

According to CARAVEL, the fact that the Eastern Military Missions in West Germany have free access to the Center and often go there is a symptom of its weakness. The responsibility for the Ludwigsburg Center rests with the Minister of Justice of Wuertemberg-Baden who directs it on behalf of all the Laender. The chief has been Staatsanwalt SCHUELE, who was recently promoted to Oberstaatsanwalt and may move on to another job. The point of CARAVEL's discourse was that the Ludwigsburg Center concerns itself mostly with former criminal police officers, and this not only hampers the operations of the BKA, but contributes to the black eye of the police and the personnel problem discussed in para c above.

e) On behalf of FOB/Reports, we raised the question of the probable use of the VVN as a pool for agents against West Germany. CARAVEL agreed wholeheartedly that this is probably the case, but he could not provide any names or ideas that might help us establish the degree and danger of Eastern penetration. He said that the VVN is the responsibility of the BfV and the LfV.

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